

Staff Report

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
THROUGH: City Manager *ack*
FROM: Code Compliance Department
DATE: March 3, 2015

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

ACTIONS

Give Staff Direction to proceed with an amendment of the Political Sign Ordinance.

SUMMARY

- **Determine how to handle political signs in the future**
- **Determine if changes should be made to size, quantity, placement etc.**

BACKGROUND

During the November 2014 political election, the Code Compliance Department received numerous complaints from candidates and the public regarding political signs. Some of these complaints included size, placement, property owner permission, etc. Due to the overwhelming amount of complaints and issues regarding political signs it was discussed among staff to consult with Council to determine if the political sign ordinance should be amended. There are three areas in which the Council may want to make amendments to the Political Sign Ordinance and where they are permitted and/or restricted. Those are the following:

1. City Right-of-Way
2. Private Property – Residential/Residential Use
3. Private Property - Commercial

Political Signs on City Property requires a encroachment permit. This permit authorizes candidates to place signs within the City Right-of-Way. This permit outlines restrictions regarding size, quantity and placement of signs.

Political Signs on private residential or residential use property are allowed and may be displayed at any time. On private residential or residential use property, political signs are unlimited, provided that the maximum size of any one sign does not exceed eight (8) square feet on one side and/or the maximum area of all sizes combined does not exceed sixteen (16) square feet. The number and total area of square footage (except height) may be doubled (except height) in the forty-five (45) days before and ten (10) days after any general or special election.

During the November 2014 election it was determined by staff and the City Attorney that the signs restrictions did not apply to private commercial property, which would mean that candidates could put as many signs of any size on commercial property, as was allowed by the property owner. This loophole in the Political Sign Code may want to be addressed by Council to ensure that commercial properties are not inundated with excessive or distracting signs.

The purpose of the City's Political Sign Ordinance is to preserve and enhance the aesthetic and for traffic safety for our community and growing commercial and industrial areas, while at the same time, providing channels of communication to the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff costs to enforce the code for example, the November 2014 Election cost approximately 80 hours of staff time to address violations or concerns regarding political signs.

Respectfully Submitted;
City Staff



City of Beaumont
550 E. 6th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223
(951) 769-8520 FAX (951) 769-8526
Email: info@beaumontcares.com

DATE: _____

PERMIT: _____

**APPLICATION FOR
POLITICAL SIGN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT**

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to place political signs within the City of Beaumont Right of Way:
Please provide the following information:

Name of Candidate: _____

Candidate's email address (required): _____

Election Date (Month/Year): _____

What are you running for?: _____

Contact/Applicant Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Contact Address: _____

Contact Email Address (required): _____

Number of signs (approximate): _____

**NON-CONFORMANCE TO THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS CONSTITUTES AUTOMATIC REVOCATION
In consideration of granting of this application, the applicant agrees to:**

1. Defend, indemnify and save the City, its authorized agents, officers, representatives, and employees, harmless from and against any and all penalties, liabilities or loss resulting from claims or court action arising out of any accident, loss or damage to persons or property.
2. Candidates are responsible for their signs and shall check for proper placement.
3. Candidates shall ensure signs are maintained and surveyed routinely for damage.
4. Adhere to the **"Guidelines for Political Signs Located in the Right-of-Way"** which you have signed and accepted responsibility of understanding.
5. **MAX. SIZE OF SIGNS IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY: 24" X 18" OR 432 SQUARE INCHES.**
6. In developed areas (curb and/or gutter): 1 sign per block of street in each direction of travel.
7. Roadways in undeveloped areas: 1 sign per one-quarter (1/4) mile spacing in each direction of travel.
8. Placement of signs within Right of Way area.
 - a. Edge of sign shall not overhang onto walk areas.
 - b. Where no sidewalk is present, maintain 5 feet from edge of curb or shoulder area to allow for walkway and opening of doors from vehicles.
 - c. Not in any lawn area, where it is subject to damage by lawnmowers.
9. No signs shall be permitted in City Park areas, the "Civic Center" and other public buildings.
10. Placement of signs shall be **no sooner than 45 days** prior to election and removed **no later than 10 days** after the election.

Applicant Printed Name

Authorized Signature

Office Use Only


Approved By

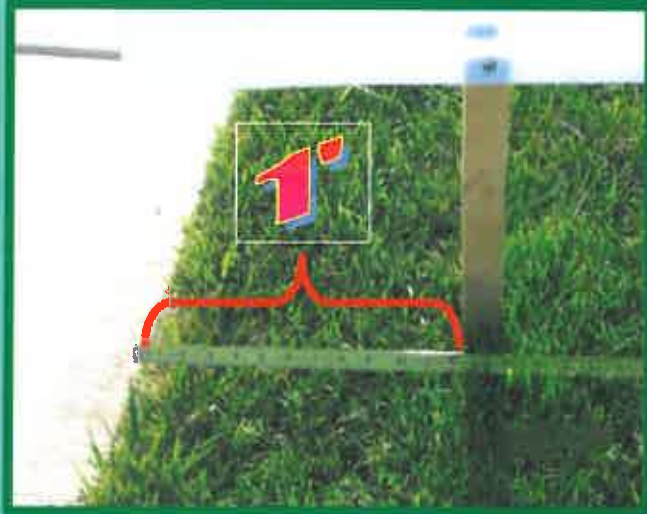
Date



City of Beaumont
550 E 6th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223
(951) 769-8529 FAX (951) 769-9678

GUIDELINES FOR POLITICAL SIGNS LOCATED IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Initial Here: _____  Signs shall be located at least **one (1) foot** **behind** the edge of a hard surface walk area within the right of way and shall not block or obstruct pedestrian traffic.

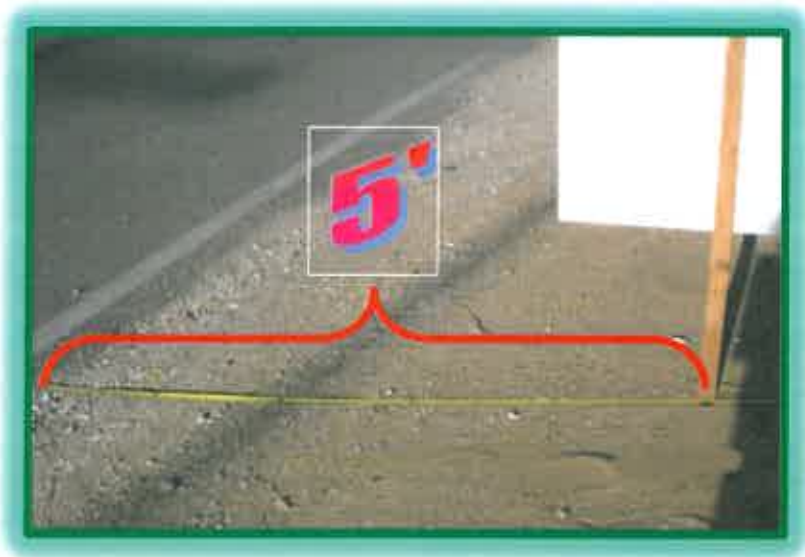


*I **will** put all signs at least one (1) foot from the edge of a hard surface walk area; and will not block the sidewalk or pedestrian traffic with an overhanging sign.*

Initial Here: _____



Initial Here: _____ ➡ When there is no sidewalk present, signs shall be **five (5) feet** from the edge of the curb or shoulder area to allow for pedestrians and the opening of vehicles.



I will put all signs at least five (5) feet from the edge of a shoulder area in undeveloped areas.

Initial Here: _____



Initial Here: _____ ➡ Signs shall be 24" x 18", 432 square inches, or smaller.



The size of all of my signs will be 24" x 18", or 432 square inches, or smaller.

Initial Here: _____



Initial Here: _____ ➡ Mobile political signs shall comply to California Vehicle Code Regulations, shall always be attached to a vehicle AND shall not be parked on parkways or unpaved surfaces.



I will comply with the California Vehicle Code.

Initial Here: _____

I will always have the trailer attached to a vehicle AND will not park on an unpaved surface.

Initial Here: _____

Initial Here: _____ ➡ Mobile political signs may only be **attached** to a tow vehicle, and may be temporarily parked on City streets for no more than two (2) hours.

Initial Here: _____ ➡ All Mobile political signs shall comply with the California Vehicle Code.

Initial Here: _____ ➡ A Mobile Political Signs can only park on paved City Streets. Not unpaved parkways.

Initial Here: _____ ➡ ***Only one (1) sign, per candidate,*** can be placed within the right-of-way, per block, *in each direction of travel in a developed area.*





In developed areas, I will only put one (1) sign, per candidate, per block, in each direction of travel.

Initial Here: _____

Initial Here: _____

➡ Only one (1) sign, per candidate, can be placed within the right-of-way, per quarter (1/4) mile, *in each direction of travel*, in undeveloped areas.



In undeveloped areas, I will only put one (1) sign, per candidate, per ¼ mile, in each direction of travel

Initial Here: _____

Initial Here: _____

➡ Signs shall not be placed on perimeter fences along vacant or non-residential lots.





*I will not put any sign
along perimeter fences
of vacant or non-
residential lots*

Initial Here: _____

Initial Here: _____



Signs shall not be placed in lawn areas
where they are likely to be damaged by City
lawnmowers.



*I will not place any
signs in lawn areas.*

Initial Here: _____



Initial Here: _____ ➡ Signs *shall not* be placed in any park or park areas.



I will not place any signs in park or park areas.

Initial Here: _____

Initial Here: _____ ➡ Signs *shall not* be placed or fixed to any tree, wall, fence or existing pole (including utility, sign or other).



I will not attach any signs to trees, fences or utility poles.

Initial Here: _____



Initial Here: _____ ➡ Signs shall not be placed within or along the Islands on Palm Avenue, park areas, the Civic Center, the Community Recreation Center (CRC), or any other government buildings.



I will not place any signs within or along the islands on Palm Avenue, park areas, the Civic Center, the CRC, or any other government buildings.

Initial Here: _____

Initial Here: _____ ➡ Signs shall not be placed in **any Medians.**



I will not place any signs in ANY MEDIAN.

Initial Here: _____



Initial Here: _____ ➡ Signs *shall be checked on frequently for placement and damage*



I will make sure to check on my signs for damage and placement.

Initial Here: _____

Initial Here: _____ ➡ Signs *shall not be placed sooner than forty-five (45) days before an election AND shall be removed no later than ten (10) days after the election.*



I will not put up any signs sooner than 45 days before the election.

Initial Here: _____

I will take all signs down no later than 10 days after the election.

Initial Here: _____



By signing the "Guidelines for Political Signs Located in the Right-of-Way", I agree to adhere to all of the guidelines as it pertains to the placement of all political signs in the City right-of-way.

I, _____, understand that violating
(Candidate Name or Agent Thereof)
any of the guidelines listed in the "Guidelines for Political Signs Located in the Right-of-Way", may result in the removal of the sign in violation.

I also understand that if any signs are removed, City of Beaumont may charge a fee of \$20.00 per sign plus cost of removal before it will be released/returned.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Information on Political Signs on Private Property

Reference Beaumont Municipal Code 17.07.070 (A-15)

Signs displaying political or other noncommercial messages may be displayed on private property at any time. Signs shall adhere to the guidelines:

- Maximum size on any one side (measured on one side only) is eight (8) square feet.
- Maximum area of **all signs combined** is sixteen (16) square feet.

POLITICAL SEASON (45 days prior to and 10 days after an election):

During the political season, the above listed limits are doubled.

- Maximum size on any one side (measured on one side only) is sixteen (16) square feet.
- Maximum area of **all signs combined** is thirty-two (32) square feet.

